



# St. George's Anglican Church

## News from the Pews

Advent 2022

### Christmas 2022: Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, Love's Pure Light!

#### From the Rector

As we move into the month of December, I'm surprised once again by how early it gets dark outside. While I know we lose approximately two minutes of daylight every day until the winter solstice, I still find it's a hard adjustment. For example, a week or so ago I noticed that the eavestroughs on my house needed to be cleaned out. And by the time I finished pulling out the leaves and clearing the downspouts, it was getting late in the afternoon and darkness was already falling. As well, last night I was barbecuing chicken and I needed to grab a flashlight to see the grill before I finished, and it wasn't even 5:00 pm.

I suppose for many of us, this time of year can feel like a race against the encroaching darkness. The stress and strain of the holiday season can be exhausting and overwhelming as we grapple with economic uncertainty, the loss of loved ones, and all the crazy expectations we place upon ourselves.

Yet there is a certain energy associated with Christmas - an energy that just seems to sweep us all up in anticipation. Every year at this time in your church we light the candles of the Advent wreath to push back the darkness and proclaim that hope, peace, joy and love are eternal. Your church is a sanctuary where the sacred stories of our faith are shared, where Christmas carols are sung, where fellowship is enjoyed, and where we draw strength from the peace and presence of God.

So please consider joining us for worship throughout this season of Advent and Christmas, for we know and proclaim that darkness will never drive out darkness. Only light can do that. And so this is an exciting time of year for us to be the church as we push back the darkness by sharing the light of Christ with each other and with those around us.

In addition to our regular Sunday services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am, on Sunday, December 18 we will be having a Lessons and Carols service at 5:00 pm featuring our amazing choir. Then on Saturday, December 24, our Christmas Eve liturgies begin at 5:00 pm with a family service in which our young people will put on a Christmas pageant, along with carols and the celebration of the eucharist. Next at 7:00 pm we will have a Community-oriented Christmas service with lots of carol singing, a couple of readings, and a short reflection. Finally, a traditional Christmas Eve service with the eucharist will open at 10:00 pm with a musical prelude, and then officially begin at 10:30 pm. Then on Christmas Day, being a Sunday, we will be offering our regular eucharist services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

It is my prayer that you will experience all of God's peace, presence and joy that your church can provide during the Advent and Christmas season, and that you will be moved and inspired by our worship. I look forward to seeing you and I wish you and your family a blessed and merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,  
The Rev. Victor Kischak, Pastor, Priest & Rector

# Peter Anderson, Order of Niagara 2022

It was our pleasure, as the parish of St George's, to nominate Peter Anderson as the 2022 recipient of the Order of Niagara. He received the Order on November 13 at a special ceremony at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton. Peter joined St George's Parish in 1975 when he and his wife Ellen were married by Archdeacon Clarence Mitchell. Peter's involvement in the church began as a participant in an Every-Member Visitation Campaign.

Peter went on to serve as Rector's Warden in 1990, and he and Ellen have been members of the choir since 1992. Even though he was a busy practising lawyer (on occasion providing legal advice to the church) and raising three girls, Peter still managed through the years to find the time to take on leadership roles in many aspects of the ministry of St George's: several Capital Campaigns, the Men of St. George's, 175th Anniversary Committee, Lecture Committee, courier for St George's Express, and most recently, on the planning committee for the celebration to honour the retirement of our Music Director Gerry Manning.

Peter also has a strong foundation in the Guelph community with the Guelph Humane Society, the local chapter of the Red Cross, the University of Guelph's Alumni Association and the Guelph Wellington Men's Club. Peter is especially proud of volunteering with the Kiwanis Club of Guelph since 1975, through which he established the Kiwanis Festival in 1982. His continued interest in the Arts supports this work.

Peter's reliable, kind and humble disposition is valued by all members of St. George's. We look forward to his continued leadership and dedicated ministry to the Parish in the years ahead. Thank you, Peter!



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who submitted their pledge forms for this year's Stewardship campaign. Forty-eight people have pledged over \$120,000! We really appreciate this as it helps to plan the budget for 2023. We know that some people choose not to pledge, but still give generously every year and we extend our gratitude to them as well.

And a huge thank you to everyone who helped push us to our goal on Giving Tuesday! We raised \$10,300 - which is truly amazing! These dollars will go directly towards lowering our deficit.

A special thanks go to Jeanne Forsythe, Laura Keller, Ella Turnbull, Natalie Leeming and Bruce Carrick for their work on the Stewardship Committee!

For the first time since 2019, the re-imagined St. George's Christmas Market took place on Sunday, November 13. A small team of dedicated volunteers was instrumental in getting this year's market off the ground. There were several changes this year, such as outside vendors, the "tea-room-to-go" boxed lunches, and the Children's Market. The feedback we received from attendees was very positive. We had great attendance, and many people commented on how excited they were to be back! And although this year's market was a much smaller event than in years past, we still managed to make about \$4,500 which will go towards the church deficit! Save the date for next year - November 12, 2023! A special thanks to Laura Keller, Debbie Marchment, Jan Wilson, Wilda Waldron, Brenda King, Earla Smith, Susan Pulleyblank, John Laidlaw, Hannah Keller and Paige Keller for all of the hours planning and setting up the market!

# Treasurer's Report

For the month of October, both identified givers and total revenue are not only down from the budget, but still down from last year. Income for October was \$27K, in 2021 it was \$28K and the budget figure was \$36K.

As you can see in the chart below, our income from January to October was \$227K which is down from \$242K in 2021 and significantly off the budgeted amount of \$335K. Our total expenses in that time are \$365K which is on par with 2021 at \$365 and slightly lower than our budgeted amount of \$380K. This has left us with a deficit of -\$138K which is up from -\$123K in 2021 and well above the budgeted figure of -\$45K. Therefore we are keeping our expenses under control, but we do need to increase our revenue to help decrease the deficit.

We now have a Square which allows us to accept Debit and Credit Card payments. This was used for the pre-sale of raffle/lunch tickets as well as at the Christmas Market. We can also use it at services, particularly those where we may be getting more non-identified givers/visitors such as Christmas. They may be inclined to give more if they can use their Debit/Credit Card as people are carrying less cash now. Parishioners and visitors can give their offerings when they arrive at church or when the collection plate is passed during the service.

	Actual Jan - Oct 2022	Actual Jan - Oct 2021	Budget Jun - Oct 2022
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$227,317	\$241,568	\$335,447
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$365,445	\$364,751	\$380,403
<b>Net Revenue</b>	-\$138,127	-123,182	-\$44,956

## PWRDF ADVENT PROJECT 2022

For our PWRDF Advent project this year, we are raising funds to buy every gift in the World of Gifts catalogue. Each Sunday in Advent we have highlighted a different project focus and have let you know where your donations will help. Donations can be made through the church office. Learn more at [PWRDF.org](http://PWRDF.org).

St. George's has a strong tradition of supporting the World of Gifts. We can give every gift in the catalogue for \$4,430. Our objective is to do this twice, so that's \$8,860. Thank you!



**PWRDF**





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